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such circumstances we can expect no better than that they will choose masters, as suits their self-interests, and continue allies of England no longer than motives of policy or caprice may influence.

From these circumstances it is an object of sincere regret to hear that endeavours are used to stir up another war against Bonaparte in the north of Europe. If these misguided efforts are successful, we may expect to see acted over again, the former comedy, or tragedy of "All in the wrong," fresh subsidies farther to impoverish the exhausted finances of Britain, plans without concert unsustained by the principle of common interest, consequent defeat, and ultimately the more firm establishment of the colossean power of France, a circumstance lamented more strongly, and on more solid, consistent principles by the friends of liberty, than it can be by the advocates of monopoly, who are quite reconciled to any despotism, except the despotism of France. On that subject, they hypocritically whine, and bring forward all the cant of unfelt affectation in favour of liberty, while the principles of slavery reconciled to them, by the selfish emoluments they enjoy, or the luxurious ease on which they so indolently repose, are deeply rooted in their hearts.

DOCUMENTS.

SOUTH AMERICA.

INDEPENDENCE OF SOUTH AMERICA,

In the name of the most high.

We, the Representatives of the Federal Provinces of Carracas, Cumana, Barinas, Margarita, Barcelona, Merida, and Truxillo, constituting the Confederation of Venezuela, on the Southern Continent of America, in Congress assembled; considering that we have been in the full and entire possession of our natural rights since the 19th of April, 1810, which we re-assumed in consequence of the transaction at Bay-

BELFAST MAG. NO. XXXIX.

onne, the abdication of the Spanish Throne, by the conquest of Spain, and the accession of a new dynasty, established without our consent. While we avail ourselves of the rights of men, which have been withheld from us by force for more than three centuries, and to which we are restored by the political revolutions in human affairs, we think it becoming to state to the world the reasons by which we are called to the free exercise of the sovereign authority.

We deem it unnecessary to insist upon the unquestionable right which every conquered country holds to restore itself to liberty and independence; we pass over in a generous silence the long series of afflictions which the fatal laws of conquest have indiscriminately involved the discoverers, conquerors, and settlers, of these countries; whose condition has been made wretched by the very means which should have promoted their felicity: throwing a veil over three centuries of Spanish dominion in America, we shall confine ourselves to the narration of recent and well known facts, which prove how much we have been afflicted, and that we should not be involved in the commotions, disorders, and conquests which have divided Spain.

The disorders in Europe had increased the evils under which we before suffered; by obstructing complaints, and frustrating the means of redress; by authorizing the Governors placed over us by Spain, to insult and oppress us with impunity, leaving us without the protection or the support of the laws.

It is contrary to the order of nature, impracticable in relation to the government of Spain, and has been most afflicting to America, that territories so much more extensive, and a population incomparably more numerous should be subjected and dependent on a peninsular corner of the European Continent.

The cession and abdication made at Bayonne; the transactions at the Escorial and at Aranjuez, and the orders issued by the Imperial Lieutenant, the Marshal Duke of Berg, to America, authorised the exercise to those rights, which until that period the Americans had sacrificed to the preservation and integrity of the Spanish nation.

The people of Venezuela were the first, who generally acknowledged, and who preferred that integrity, never forsaking the interests of their European brethren,

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while there remained the least prospect of salvation.

America had acquired a new existence; she was able and was bound to take charge of her own safety and prosperity; she was at liberty to acknowledge or to reject the authority of a King who was so little deserving of that power, as to regard his personal safety, more than that of the nation over which he had been placed.

All the Bourbons who concurred in the futile stipulations of Bayonne, having withdrawn from the Spanish territory, contrary to the will of the people, abrogated, dishonoured, and trampled upon all the sacred obligations which they had contracted with the Spaniards of both worlds, who with their blood and treasure had placed them on the throne, in opposition to the efforts of the house of Austria; such conduct has rendered them unfit to rule over a free people, whom they disposed of like a gang of slaves.

The intrusive government which have arrogated to themselves the authority which belongs only to the national representation, treacherously availed themselves of the known good faith, the distance and effects, which ignorance and oppression had produced among the Americans, to direct their passions against the new dynasty which had been imposed upon Spain, and in opposition to their own principles, kept up the illusion among us in favour of Ferdinand, but only in order to baffle our national hopes, and to make us with greater impunity their prey; they held forth to us promises of liberty, equality, and fraternity, in pompous discourses, the more effectually to conceal the snare which they were insidiously laying for us by an inefficient and degrading show of representation.

As soon as the various forms of the Spanish government were overthrown, and others had been successively substituted, and imperious necessity had taught Venezuela to look to her own safety, in order to support the King, and afford an asylum to their European brethren against the calamities by which they were menaced, all their former services were disregarded; new measures were adopted against us, and the very steps taken for the preservation of the Spanish government were branded with the titles of insurrection, perfidy and ingratitude, but only because the door was closed against a monopoly of power which they had expected to

perpetuate in the name of a king, whose dominion was imaginary.

Notwithstanding our moderation, our generosity, and the purity of our intentions, and in opposition to the wishes of our brethren in Europe, we were declared to the world in a state of blockade; hostilities were commenced against us; agents sent among us to excite revolt, and arm us against each other; whilst our national character was traduced, and foreign nations excited to make war upon us.

Deaf to our remonstrances, without submitting our reasons to the impartial judgment of mankind, and deprived of every other arbitrament but that of our enemies, we were prohibited from all intercourse with our brethren—and adding contempt to calumny, they undertook to appoint delegates for us, and without our consent, who were to assist at their Cortes, the more effectually to dispose of our persons and property, and render us subject to the power of our enemies.

In order to defeat the wholesome measure of our national representation, when obliged to recognise it, they undertook to reduce the ration of our population, submitting the form of election to servile committees acting at the disposal of arbitrary rulers; thus insulting our inexperience and good faith, and utterly regardless of our political importance or our welfare.

The Spanish Government ever deaf to the demands of justice, undertook to frustrate all our legitimate rights, by condemning as criminals, and devoting to the infamy of the gibbet, or to confiscation and banishment those Americans who at different periods had employed their talents and services for the happiness of their country.

Such are the causes which at length have forced us to look to our own security, and to avert those disorders and horrible calamities, which we could perceive were otherwise inevitable, and from which we shall ever keep aloof. By their wicked policy they have rendered our brethren insensible to our misfortunes, and have armed them against us; they have effaced from their hearts the tender impressions of love and consanguinity, and converted into enemies many members of our great family.

When faithful to our promises, we were sacrificing our peace and dignity to support the cause of Ferdinand of Bourbon, we saw that the bonds of power by which he united his fate to that of the French, he added the sacrifice of kindred and friends, and that on this account the existing Spanish

rulers themselves, have already resolved to acknowledge him only conditionally. In this painful state of perplexity, three years have elapsed in political irresolution, so dangerous, so fraught with evil, that this alone would have authorised the determination which the faith we have pledged, and other fraternal attachments had caused us to defer, till imperious necessity compels us to proceed further than we had first contemplated; but pressed by the hostile and unnatural conduct of the Spanish Fulcrs, we are at length absolved from the conditional oath which we had taken, and now taken upon us the august sovereignty which we are called here to exercise,

But as our glory consists in establishing principles consistent with human happiness, and not erecting a partial felicity on the misfortunes of our fellow mortals, we hereby proclaim and declare, that we shall regard as friends and companions in our destiny, and participators of our happiness, all those, who, united by ties of blood, language, and religion, have suffered oppression under the ancient establishments, and who shall assert their independence thereof, and of any foreign power whatsoever, engaging, that all who co-operate with us shall partake in life, fortune and opinion, declaring and recognising not only these, but those of every nation, in war, enemies; in peace, friends, brethren, and fellow citizens.

In consideration, therefore, of these solid, public, and incontestible motives, which force upon us the necessity of re-assuming our natural rights, thus restored to us by the revolution of human affairs, and the virtue of the imprescriptible rights of every people, to dissolve every agreement, convention, and social compact, which does not establish the purposes for which alone all governments are instituted, we are convinced that we cannot and ought not any longer to endure the chains by which we were connected with the government of Spain; and we do declare, like every other independent people, that we are free, and determined to hold no dependence on any Potentate, Power, or Government, than what we ourselves establish; and that we now take among the sovereign nations of the earth, the rank which the Supreme Being and nature hath assigned to us, and to which we have been called by the succession of human events, and by a regard for our own happiness.

Although we foresee the difficulties which may attend our new situation, and

the obligation which we contract by the rank which we are about to occupy in the political order of the world; and above all, the powerful influence of ancient forms and habits by which (to our regret) we have been hitherto affected—yet we also know, that a shameful submission to them, when it is in our power to shake them off, would prove more ignominious to ourselves, and more fatal to posterity, than our long and painful servitude. It therefore becomes our indispensable duty to provide for our security, liberty, and happiness, by an entire and essential subversion and reform of our ancient establishments.

Wherefore believing, for all these reasons, that we have complied with the respect which we owe to the opinions of mankind, and to the dignity of other nations, with whom we are about to rank, and of whose friendly intercourse we assure ourselves.

We, the Representatives of the confederated provinces of Venezuela, invoking the Most High to witness the justice of our cause, and the rectitude of our intentions, imploring his Divine assistance to ratify the epoch of our political birth, the dignity to which his providence hath restored us, the ardent desire to live and die free, and in the belief and defence of the Holy Catholic and Apostolic Religion of Jesus Christ, as the first of our duties.

We, therefore, in the name, by the will, and under the authority which we hold for the virtuous people of Venezuela, do solemnly declare to the world, that these united provinces are, and ought to be from this day forth, in fact, and of right, free, sovereign and independent States; that they are absolved from all allegiance and dependence on the crown of Spain, and of those who now call or may hereafter call themselves its Representatives or Agents; and that as free, sovereign, and independent States, we hold full power to adopt what form of government may be deemed suitable to the general will of its inhabitants: to declare war, make peace, form alliances, establish commercial treaties, define boundaries, and regulate navigation, and to propose and execute all other acts, usually made and executed by free and independent nations; and for the due fulfilment, validity, and ability of this our solemn declaration, we mutually and reciprocally pledge and bind the provinces to each other, our lives, fortunes, and the honor of the nation.

Done at the Federal Palace of the Carracas, signed with our hands, and sealed with the Great Seal of the Provincial Confederation, and countersigned by the Secretary to the Congress assembled, on the 5th day of July, in the year 1811, and in the first of our independence.

Here follows the Signatures of thirty-eight Representatives.

JOSE MARIA RAMIREZ.

A true copy. (L.S.) FRANCIS IZNARDI, Sec.

DECREE OF THE SUPREME EXECUTIVE.

Federal Palace of Carracas, July 8, 1811.

By the Executive Power of the Confederation of Venezuela, it is ordained, that the above declaration of independence be published, carried into effect, and be of full authority throughout the States and territories of this Confederation.

Christoval De Menoza, President pro tem.

Juan De Escalona.

Baltaz. R. Padron.

Miguel Jose Sanz, Secretary of State.

Carlos Machado, Grand Counsellor.

Jose Tomas Salmana, Sec. Foreign Affairs.

Comparison of the relative value of British Coin. Communicated in a letter to the Editors of the Repository of Arts, Manufactures, and Agriculture.

The following curious facts, occasioned by the present state of British currency, deserve to be recorded; and may be of use to the philosopher who shall consult your pages at some distant period.

	£.	s.	d.
A Guinea made of standard gold, weight 5 dwt. 8 grs. passes by law for only.....	1	1	0
The same, three grains lighter, is worth, as bullion.....	1	5	6
A crown piece, made of sterling silver, weight 19 dwt. 8 grs. passes by law for only.....	0	5	0
A bank dollar, weighing two penny weights less, and the silver 2½d an ounce worse, is current for.....	0	5	6
A half-crown piece of sterling silver, weight 9 dwt. 16 grs. passes by law for only.....	0	2	6
A bank token, weighing five grains less, and the silver 2½d an ounce worse, is current for	0	3	0
The lesser bank tokens of eighteen pence			

weighs 1 dwt. 2 grs. less than a shilling and a six pence, and the silver is also 2½d. an ounce worse.

Any person who buys an ounce of standard gold, and pays for it in coin, will receive ten-pence in change for four guineas and two seven-shilling pieces.

A Bank of England note for one pound purports to be the representation of 5 dwts. 3 grs. of standard gold; but, at the present nominal price, it will purchase not quite 4 dwts. 4 grs.; its deficit is 23 grains, and its consequent depreciation three shillings and seven pence.

Yours, &c.

London, Sept. 17, 1811.

B. S.

COUNTY CARLOW MEETING.

OCTOBER, 3, 1811.

Resolved, That we the Roman Catholics of the Town and County of Carlow, have beheld with the deepest concern the attempt which has been made to obstruct our Body in the legal and constitutional exercise of the irrefragable right of all British subjects to Petition the Legislature; an attempt not more unjust in casting upon us a suspicion equally odious and repugnant to our principles, than calculated, in its tendency, to encroach upon the privileges of his Majesty's Subjects of every denomination.

That, whilst we behold with awe, the impending destinies of the nations of Europe, almost universally prostrate to the power of a relentless and mighty tyrant, we view with poignant regret any measure tending to divide the Population, and weaken the resources of our native land; but turning our eyes to an enlightened, a beneficent and constitutional Prince, whom Providence seems to have reserved for us in this hour of peril, we look with unshaken confidence to the exertion of his wisdom, his justice, and his magnanimity, to avert those evils which might be inflicted upon us by the machinations of domestic enemies, or the assault of foreign foes; and we call upon all our fellow subjects of every sect and persuasion, to join cordially with us in our earnest efforts to uphold the dignity of the throne, the lawful rights of the people and the integrity and safety of the British empire.

That in seeking, by the means which the Constitution prescribes, a Repeal of those Laws which still remain in force, to the prejudice, in all the situations of life, of the Roman Catholic, and which, in their